

ciently large scale either in peace or war, until everything grew to depend upon the ability of one or two men on top. Much of the fall of the Eoman Eepublie we can account for. For one thing, I do not think historians have ever laid sufficient emphasis on the fact that the widening of the franchise in Italy and the provinces meant so little from the governmental standpoint "because citizens could only vote in one city, Borne;, I should hate at this day to see the United States governed by votes cast in the city of New York, even though Texas, Oregon and Maine could in theory send their people thither to vote if they chose. But the reasons for the change in military and govern-mental ability under the empire between, say, the days of Hadrian and of Valens are hardly even to be guessed at.

I have always been greatly interested in what you point out as to the inability of the people of that strip of western Asia which is geographically North Africa ever to recover themselves from the downfall of the Eoman Empire. It is a rather irritating delusion—the delusion that somehow or other we are all necessarily going to move forward in the long run no matter what the temporary checks may be. I have a very firm faith in this general forward movement, considering only men of our own race for the past score or two centuries, and I hope and believe that the movement will continue for an indefinite period to come; but no one can be sure; there is certainly nothing inevitable or necessary about the movement. For a thousand

years, from the
days of Alexander to the days of Mahomet, in
spite of
fluctuations, the civilization of Asia west of the
Euphrates
was that of Greeks and of Asiatics profoundly
affected by
Greek influence. Then it disappeared from
the land; just
as the extraordinary Eoman civilization
disappeared from
North Africa, and left not a single vestige
behind save the
ruins of cities and the masonry around the
springs that
have dried up under the destructive impotence
of the rule
that succeeded it.

It is hopeful of course to think how peoples
do revive
now and then; peoples doubtless partly the
same in blood as